

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday in Lent

20 March 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. During these weeks of Lent we are on a special journey -- a pilgrimage you might say -- as we follow Christ through some of his most significant ministry in order to know more fully and more deeply what it means to be his followers today. We are blessed by your presence with us today and pray God's Spirit will bless you.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Two Chorales:

O Eternity, Word of Thunder

O Christ, Who Are the Day and Light

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 153

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, our God

who calls people from their daily work

saying to them 'Come ye after me',

May your children today hear your voice

and gladly answer your call

to give our lives to you

to serve your Church
to offer our gifts
and give away our hearts to you only.
Bless our hopes,
the first tiny stirrings of desire,
the little resolve to go forward
the small vision of what might be.
Deal gently with our fears
the hesitation of uncertainty
the darkness of the unknown
the lack of confidence in our capacity
and turn it all to trust in you. Amen.

Gabrielle Hadington

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Bountiful God, you have blessed us abundantly, but we have asked for evermore benefits and protection. When you call us to depart from our safe places to serve you or charge us with the responsibility to care for the poor and wounded, we are frightened. It is hard to hear the message that all we have, even life itself, belongs to you and is to be invested in your service. We turn away from the cost of discipleship, seeking to enjoy the benefits of faith without opening ourselves to its risks and challenges. Forgive us, O God, and give us the courage of our convictions. In Jesus' name and presence as we pray together,

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

New Century (black) Hymnal 170 (verse 4)

How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?

You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Charlie Baird

Genesis 32:22-30

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Children's Choir

Mary Fike, flute; Janice Riddell, piano

Come Worship God This Holy Day arr. Michael Bedford

SECOND LESSON

Peter Schay

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I

am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*‡HYMN

“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said

New Century (black) Hymnal 204

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

SERMON

Me, Myself and I

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

(Second in a Sermon Series: “Following Christ”)

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in the truth of Christ's gospel:
that those who want to save their life, will lose it;
and that those who lose their life for the sake of the gospel,
shall find life truly.

We believe in the kingdom Christ proclaims;
that in surrendering our trust into him and following
him, we shall enter into it, on earth and in heaven.

***GLORIA**

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Divine Redeemer

The Chancel Choir

Charles Gounod

***DOXOLOGY**

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures
here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom
we adore. Amen. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

(words and music on next page)

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 118

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
 2. Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low,
 3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
 Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low,
 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus—
 Tho' no one join me, still I will fol - low—
 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me—

No turn - ing back, (no turn - ing back,) no turn - ing back!

Text: Ascribed to an Indian prince; as sung in Garo, Assam

Tune: Indian Folk Melody, Paul B. Smith, © 1949, Zondervan Music Publishers; Harm. by Norma Johnson, © 1963, Zondervan Music Publishers

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Wherever you go, the love of God goes with you.

People: It moves with our legs, reaches with our hands, speaks with our voices.

Leader: Because of you, love goes forth into the world. Without you it would be invisible.

People: We have heard the call to love and go forth to embody and express this Holy Presence.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

We Praise Thee, O God

Dieterich Buxtehude

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of James Anderson III by his family.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, www.fccog.org. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Our children will be in worship today through the reading of the scriptures. When they go to their classes, most will learn John's version of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper (John 13:1-20). The third grade will learn about the Beatitudes. Be sure to visit the CROP Walk table at Coffee Hour and learn about signing up your family walkers!

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Bible Study

This last week, we paused in our study of Luke. But we will take the book up again right after Easter, beginning May 1. Throughout the course, we had to add more chairs to the Lounge to accommodate the many people who showed up. Even though there is a break, we are already planning at least one special session for the interim. Thank you to all of those who were instrumental in making the Bible Study a success, especially Marge York, Beth Rollins, Sheila Tolmie, Harold Frost and Pat Larrabee. Oh, and Luke.

Crop Walk

It's time to rally your team for this important event being held on *April 10!* Members of the Hunger Mission Team will be at Coffee Hour today to give you all the information and/or sign you up to walk, volunteer or sponsor a walker.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Youth Ministry

JPF (grades 6-8) will meet tonight from 5:00-6:00 pm and SPF (grades 9-12) from 7:00-8:00.

Cabaret DVDs for Sale

Come to the cabaret again and again! DVD copies of the January 29

performance will be available at coffee hour today. The DVDs are \$25 (the cost covers the expense of producing and duplicating the DVDs). Enjoy!

THIS WEEK

Join the Chancel Choir for a Special Performance!

On Good Friday, the Chancel Choir will perform John Rutter's poignant setting of "*Requiem*." Starting this week on *Thursday, March 24*, we invite any members of the congregation and community to join them in rehearsals from 7:30-8:15 pm in the choir room. Simply email Dr. Craig Scott Symons at craigs@fccog.org to reserve your spot!

NEXT WEEK

Women's Fellowship Soup Sale is Coming!!!

Sunday March 27 in Coffee Hour until 1:00 pm and *Monday and Tuesday March 28 and 29* in the main church kitchen from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, just in time for lunch! The cost is \$6 per quart to benefit Women's Fellowship programs. (Additional donations are welcome!) You have a great variety of soups to choose from! Please stop by.

Confirmation

Looking ahead ... on *Tuesday March 29* the Confirmation class will be going "off-campus" to attend the World Vision AIDS experience at Christ Church Greenwich. **Please note the special instructions for this evening:**

6:45 pm: drop off your Confirmand at Christ Church

8:15 pm: pick up your Confirmand at Christ Church

Movie Night

Please join us for Movie Night, *Friday April 1*, for *Toy Story 3*! All members and friends are welcome. Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm and the movie will begin at 7:00 pm. We will also have: raffle prizes, popcorn, fellowship, and fun! Wear your PJ's. Bring your blankets and pillows too; for this wonderful evening for "kids" of all ages. Bring your grandkids, neighbors, and friends from school. Sign up at

coffee hour or church school. We hope to see you Friday, April 1st for Movie Night!

NEWS AND NOTICES

Soup Sale

Help!...men and women of FCCOG we still need your soup! Please consider making a few quarts for the Women's Fellowship fundraiser which is starting next Sunday. Just email Pat Schay at pat@schay.com or call her at 203-698-1979 and let her know the name of the soup you plan to make and the ingredients. Containers and labels are supplied and are available in the church office.

Can You Relate? Fostering Healthy Relationships - *Sunday, April 3*

What are the components of a healthy relationship? How can we nurture each other and have fulfilling and meaningful connections with our family, friends, and loved ones? What role does spirituality play in our interpersonal relationships? FCCOG's own Enid Norris, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, will explore the characteristics of healthy relationships and lead an interactive discussion on fostering meaningful connections. Please join us Sunday, April 3 shortly after the Worship Service.

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on *Sunday, April 10, 2011* at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will be received on Sunday, May 1. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend or you have questions please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 ext. 26.

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, meets

Thursday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 in the church lounge. We are currently reading *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago. Reverend Susan Murtha leads this book discussion. All are welcome. Please join us.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are once again being held on Wednesdays at 8:00 am as well as Thursdays at 9:00 am. The cost is only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

News from The Rummage Room

Hear Ye, Hear Ye. Today is the first day of SPRING!!!! The crocuses are blooming, the grass has turned green and the robins are returning. Spring cleaning has begun so please stay alert for items that can be donated to The Rummage Room and turned into funds that will be distributed to organizations who support women's and children's causes. There is a special need for Spring and Easter donations so please bring your garments to The Rummage Room as soon as possible. What you give could brighten someone else's wardrobe. And while you are there, you can shop and brighten your own wardrobe. Thank you.

The Rummage Room Hours: The Rummage Room is open for shopping 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday.

Manager Maria's Wish List for March: Spring clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry, a small china display cabinet, children's and adult's bikes, a boy's navy blue suit (size 8 to 10), small furniture (chests, tables and chairs, desks, footstools), good bric-a-brac, baby strollers, a sewing machine, and art works.

And remember as the days grow longer, *Life consists less in the length of the days than in the keen sense of living.* ~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant

difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)
- 100% Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please)
- Jelly

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell